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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Plans
Deputy Director for Science and Technology
Deputy Director for Support
Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
Programs Evaluation
General Counsel
Inspector General

SUBJECT : Primary Mission and Function of CIA

1. We have a continuing requirement to underline to Agency employees and to Government officials outside the Agency who have a need to know that the primary mission and function of the Agency is the collection and evaluation of intelligence information. Although on occasion the Agency also undertakes certain operations which are not oriented mainly toward the collection of intelligence, such operations are conducted in direct response to specific policy direction.

2. Over the years we have all found reason to take pride in the Agency's work and its achievements; however, our day-to-day concern with the details of our operations must not be permitted to lead to the coloring of our presentations of programs or to a preoccupation with operational aspects of little direct relationship to our primary mission.

3. The rationale of intelligence collection must continue to underlie the planning and carrying out of the Agency's action programs. It is vitally important, in describing these programs to U. S. officials outside the Agency, to emphasize the intelligence aspects of the programs.

4. Such emphasis will go far toward helping to avoid exposing the Agency to groundless, destructive criticism. It will also help

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to avoid creating false impressions such as that CIA concentrates on programs peripheral to the Agency's principal responsibilities for the collection and evaluation of intelligence; that we are not responsive to direction from higher authority; and that we compete with or attempt to transgress the programs relating to the assigned missions of other U. S. agencies.

5. I request that, in an appropriate manner, you inform the employees under your supervision of the essence of this memorandum.

(signed) W. F. Raborn

W. F. Raborn
Director

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